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## Facsimile

To: Commissioner for Patents  
Fax No.: (571) 273-8300  
From: George M. Macdonald  
Date: May 21, 2007  
Subject: Serial No.: 10/707,510  
Pages: 5 (including this cover)

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Re: U.S. Patent Application Serial No.: 10/707,510  
Confirmation No.: 1509  
Attorney Docket No.: F-775

Enclosed please find an Information Disclosure Statement, with accompanying Form 1449 (Substitute) in the above referenced case.

### CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that the following correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to:

Patent and Trademark Office  
Facsimile No. (571) 273-8300

1. Information Disclosure Statement with Form 1449

on May 21, 2007  
Date of Transmission

George M. Macdonald  
Name of Registered Rep.  
Reg. No.: 39,284

  
Signature

May 21, 2007  
Date

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CENTRAL FAX CENTER****MAY 21 2007****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re patent application of: ) Date: May 21, 2007  
Frederick W. Ryan, Jr., et al. ) Attorney Docket No.: F-775  
Serial No.: 10/707,510 ) Customer No.: 00919  
Filed: December 18, 2003 ) Group Art Unit: 3628  
Confirmation No.: 1509 ) Examiner: Jabr, Fadey S.  
For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR FACILITATING REFUNDS OF  
UNUSED POSTAGE

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

05/22/2007 EHAILE1 00000056 161885 10707510  
01 FC:1806 180.00 DA

Sir:

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information of which they are aware, which they believe may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56.

While this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to herein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(b) exists.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(b).

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This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in accordance with the following provisions, as identified below with marked boxes, available under 37 CFR § 1.97:

1. ☐ 37 CFR §1.97(b) - This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed according to one of the following: (i) within 3 months of the filing date of this application (other than a CPA); (ii) within 3 months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application; (iii) before the mailing of a first Office action on the merits; or (iv) before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114.

OR

2. ☒ 37 CFR §1.97(c) - This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of any of a final action under § 1.113, a notice of allowance under § 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and it is accompanied by the statement or fee as identified below:

2.1 ☐ Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1) - see below.

OR

2.2 ☐ Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(2) - see below.

OR

2.3 ☒ Please charge Deposit Account No. 16-1885 in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the fee set forth in § 1.17(p).

**\*\* Provisional Fee Authorization.** If Box 2.1 or Box 2.2 is marked above and a final action under § 1.113 has in fact been mailed before the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 16-1885 in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the fee set forth in § 1.17(p) as if Box 2.3 had been marked.

OR

3. ☐ 37 CFR §1.97(d) - This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed on or before payment of the issue fee and it is accompanied by the statement and fee as identified below:

3.1.1 ☐ Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1) - see below.

OR

3.1.2 ☐ Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(2) - see below.

AND

3.2 ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 16-1885 in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the fee set forth in § 1.17(p).

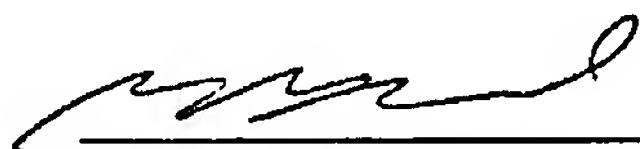
Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1) - Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

Specified Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(2) - No item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing below, after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

A list of the patent(s) and/or publication(s) is set forth on the attached Form PTO-1449 (Substitute).

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 16-1885.

Respectfully submitted,



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Reg. No. 39,284  
Attorney of Record  
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PITNEY BOWES INC.  
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Plus attachments: Form PTO-1449 (Substitute)

**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on fax no.: (571) 273-8300, on May 21, 2007 (Date of Transmission).

George M. Macdonald, Reg. No. 39,284 (Name of Registered Rep.)

 (Signature)

May 21, 2007 (Date)

MAY 21 2007

PTO/SB/08A (07-05)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO		<b>Complete if Known</b>	
		Application Number	10/707,510
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> (Use as many sheets as necessary)		Filing Date	December 18, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Frederick W. Ryan, Jr.
		Art Unit	3639
		Examiner Name	Jabr, Fadey S.
		Attorney Docket Number	F-775
Sheet	1	of	1

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
	A	US- 2002/0110397-A1	08-15-2002	Bussell	
	B	US- 6,687,684-B1	02-03-2004	Whitehouse, et al.	
	C	US- 6,592,027-B2	07-15-2003	Kovlakas	
	D	US- 2001/0030232-A1	10-18-2001	Platak	
	E	US- 2003/0097306-A1	05-22-2003	Boucher, et al.	
	F	US- 5,168,444	12-01-1992	Cukor, et al.	
	G	US- 6,182,565	02-06-2001	Takayama, et al.	
	H	US- 2003/0101148-A1	05-29-2003	Montgomery, et al.	
	I	US- 6,032,138	02-29-2000	McFiggans, et al.	
	J	US- 6,249,777	06-19-2001	Kara, et al.	
	K	US- 6,064,995	05-16-2000	Sansone, et al.	
	L	US- 6,430,543	08-06-2002	Lee, et al.	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.